

Claim Amendments

Applicants have amended claims 1, 13 and 20-22. Applicants set forth below a complete listing of the claims with the corresponding status indicated for each claim.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~performing printing a single print job between a plurality of printers connected to a computer through a communication means,~~ the method comprising:

searching a network to determine a plurality of available printers;

selecting a plurality of the available printers to create a printer pool;

selecting a plurality of printers in the printer pool to create a printer group;

determining with said computer through to which of said plurality of the printers in the printer group said print job is to be transmitted so-as to balance said print job between said plurality of printers based upon a load balancing scheme;

transmitting through said communication means, said print job to said plurality of determined printers based on said load balancing scheme; and

printing said print job by said plurality of determined printers.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said load balancing scheme divides said print job by sets.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said load balancing scheme divides said print job by sending pages with no color to black-and-white printers and sends pages with color to color capable printers.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said load balancing scheme divides said print job by page number.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of printers is user defined.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein a printer from said plurality of printers is removed upon an error.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said print job has a user defined priority.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said priority puts said print job first amongst all queued print jobs.
9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said priority delays said print job until all other queued print jobs are performed.
10. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said priority queues said print job at a specific date and time.
11. (Original) The method of Claim 7 wherein said user defined priority is a print speed threshold.
12. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein a print job is rerouted in the event of printer error based upon factors which may include any of the state of any or all eligible printers, the type of error, user defined, and interactive options.
13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for performing printing a single print job between a plurality of printers connected to a computer through a communication means, the apparatus comprising:
 - means for searching a network to determine a plurality of available printers;
 - means for selecting a plurality of the available printers to create a printer pool;
 - means for selecting a plurality of printers in the printer pool to create a printer group;
 - a module for determining ~~with said computer through to~~ which of said plurality of the printers in the printer group said print job is to be transmitted so as to balance said print job ~~between said plurality of printers~~ based upon a load balancing scheme;

a module for ~~transmitting through said communication means~~, said print job to said ~~plurality of determined~~ printers based on said load balancing scheme; and
a module for printing said print job by said ~~plurality of determined~~ printers.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said load balancing scheme divides said print job by sets.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said load balancing scheme divides said print job by sending pages with no color to black-and-white printers and sends pages with color to color capable printers.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said load balancing scheme divides said print job by page number.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said plurality of printers is user defined.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein a printer from said plurality of printers is removed upon an error.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said print job has a user defined priority.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~13~~ 19 wherein said priority puts said print job first amongst all queued print jobs.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~13~~ 19 wherein said priority delays said print job until all other queued print jobs are performed.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~13~~ 19 wherein said priority queues said print job at a specific date and time.

23. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said user defined priority is a print speed threshold.

24. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein a print job is rerouted in the event of printer error based upon factors which may include any of the state of any or all, printers, the type of error, user defined options, and interactive options eligible.